

AMST 332/WMST 379
Sexuality and Culture: The Politics of Sex
Mondays 4:00-6:30, Mitchell Hall 211
Spring 2011

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Office Hours: Mondays, 2:50-3:50pm in Ortega 330A and Thursdays, 2:00-3:00pm in Mesa Vista 2136

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Course Description:

The politics of sex are around us everyday – in our laws, on our televisions and radios, and aired in heated political debates. In this course, we tackle some of the controversies associated with “the politics of sex” by examining how sex, gender, and sexuality have been constructed throughout U.S. history, culture and politics. The primary purpose of this class is to study how sexuality is racialized, classed, and gendered, with an emphasis on challenging the ways in which certain identities and practices are normalized and others marked as deviant or unnatural. In this way, AMST 332 provides a survey of feminist, queer, and LGBT theories and is, therefore, a reading intensive course.

This class has two components: a main lecture class (332) and a small discussion class (332L). You must be enrolled in and attend both 332 and 332L. The discussion sections meet Wednesdays 4:30-5:20 *or* Thursdays 11:00-11:50, in Ortega Hall 313.

Required Course Materials:

- Three novels/memoirs, available at the bookstore (or order online):
 - Chee, Alexander. *Edinburgh: A Novel*. New York: Picador, 2002.
 - Galloway, Terry. *Mean Little Deaf Queer: A Memoir*. New York: Beacon Press, 2010
 - Hillman, Thea. *Intersex (For Lack of a Better Word)*. San Francisco: Manic D Press, Inc., 2008.
- Online access for Articles on ERESERVES (password: 332) and online book. Please note, you are required to print out all of the readings and bring them to the assigned class session. Except for the three novels listed above and the online book, **all** readings will be available on ERESERVES.
- Binder for the “Polisex Portfolio.” You need to purchase a binder in which you will keep your class notes, reading responses, and other materials from class. You might want to have a separate binder for the course readings as well, but this is up to you.

Course Assignments:

Attendance/Participation/Preparation	15%
Reading Responses	15%
Midterm Exam	25%
Memoir	10%
Final Exam & Essay	35%

Please note that your final grade in the recitation/lab will be the exact same as your final grade for the lecture course.

I. Attendance/Participation/Preparation

Attendance and Tardiness Policy: Attendance is calculated as the combination of lecture and recitation sessions. Regular attendance and timely arrival is required. *Attendance in class, however, does not constitute participation.* Your final grade will start being lowered **after two unexcused absences, and if you have more than five unexcused absences, we will automatically drop you from the course.** Two class sessions of late attendance (i.e. tardiness) will count as one unexcused absence. An *excused* absence requires that you provide official, written verification of your absence (i.e. a “doctor’s note”). For any situations that may cause you to miss class, please talk to me as soon as possible and make arrangements to get notes from a peer.

Participation: This class relies upon the intellectual commitment and active participation of all students. In order for the course to be effective, all students must have the reading assignments completed and ready for in-depth discussion for each class. The topics we will be discussing can be politically charged, so we expect everyone to *actively* listen to others as well as be respectful of each other’s ideas. If for some reason you do not feel comfortable talking in class, or find something uncomfortable about our classroom atmosphere, *please* let one of us know as soon as possible so we can try to alleviate the situation.

Preparation: Because we rely heavily on each other’s intellectual labor, preparation, and ideas, students are required to come to class prepared to discuss assigned readings and have the reading responses ready. Please do not come to class if you are unprepared – if we see that you have come to class unprepared, we will ask you to leave the classroom and return when you are ready. If there is a personal emergency in which you would like to attend class but you are not as prepared as you normally are, please contact one of us in advance of the class meeting.

II. Polisex Portfolio & Reading Responses

Throughout the course you will be compiling and creating a Polisex Portfolio. The Portfolio will serve as the repository for all classroom materials (such as discussion questions, handouts, etc.), but will mainly consist of reading responses for each and every reading assignment (see recitation syllabus for more information on reading responses), as well as your notes on the reading materials, lectures, and classroom discussions.

You are required to come to class each day with your reading responses and the printout of your readings that will demonstrate your engagement with the material (through notes in the margins, for example). As noted above, if you are not prepared for class you will be asked to leave. We will be asking to see your Portfolio on random occasions.

We will turn to and use your reading responses and notes on a regular basis in this class, but most importantly, you are allowed to bring your Portfolio to the exams. Therefore, your ability to keep your Portfolio up to date will directly impact your success in this class.

III. Memoir

For this creative writing assignment, you will be writing a 7-10 page personal memoir that draws on the topics and styles we will see in the novels by Hillman, Chee, and Galloway. Overall, your memoir should focus on the relationship between your own sexuality and the outside world (i.e. family, school, media, friends, government, religion, etc.). You will be getting more information about this, along with a detailed assignment sheet, later in the semester.

IV. Midterm exam

There will be an in-class midterm exam in this course (see schedule). This will be a challenging exam that will consist of short answer questions based on the course readings, lectures, and classroom discussions. The exam is “open book” in that you are allowed to bring your Portfolio as well as your readings for the midterm.

V. Final Exam and Essay

Your Final will consist of two parts:

1) **In-Class Final Exam:** During exam week, there will be a final in-class exam. The exam will consist of a number of short answer questions that will cover material from throughout the whole course, including lectures, films, and course readings. Therefore, you should prepare accordingly throughout the semester (keep summaries updated, take notes on lectures, films, discussions, and course readings). You will be allowed to bring your Portfolio for the final.

2) **Final Essay:** I will hand out an essay question for you on the final class meeting. It will consist of a 5-7 page essay that will ask you to synthesize material from throughout the course. The essay will be due at the time and date of our scheduled final exam.

Class and Grading Policies:

Late Work: We do not accept late work, so please plan accordingly. This does not apply to medical emergencies.

Pass/No Pass: If you opt for this grading system, you must complete all assignments to receive credit.

Special Accommodations: If you have or believe you have a disability, you may wish to self-identify. You can do so by providing documentation to the office for Services for Students with disabilities, which is located in Mesa Vista Hall, #2021. Appropriate accommodations may then be provided for you. Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent full demonstration of academic ability should contact us personally as soon as possible so that we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and to facilitate your educational opportunities.

University Policy on Academic Dishonesty: The University of New Mexico's Student Code of Conduct, 2.4, defines the following types of academic dishonesty as subject to disciplinary action: "Academic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or without the University; and nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records."

More on Plagiarism as Academic Dishonesty: For essays, you must cite all written sources that you have consulted, whether you quote directly or paraphrase. This is true whether you are using electronic or printed materials. Incomplete or improper citations are a form of plagiarism. If you are unfamiliar with proper citation formats, or have questions, please consult me, a reference librarian, a writing tutor and/or a style manual. Lack of familiarity with proper procedures is not a defense.

Course Schedule

January 24 Introductions

In-class documentary showing, *Passion and Power: The Technology of Orgasm*.

January 31 Toward a (New) Politics of Sexuality

Smith, Barbara. "Homophobia: Why Bring It Up?" From *L & G Studies Reader*.

Rochlin, Martin, "The Heterosexuality Questionnaire."

Messner, Michael. "Becoming 100% Straight." From *Men's Lives*.

Jordan, June "A New Politics of Sexuality." From *Some of Us Did Not Die*.

Moraga, Cherríe. "La Guera." From *This Bridge Called My Back*.

February 7 Race-ing Sexualities, Sexualizing Race

Jacobs, Sue Ellen, et al. "Introduction." From *Two-Spirit People*.

Hammonds, Evelyn. "Toward a Genealogy of Black Female Sexuality." From *Feminist Genealogies*.

Somerville, Siobhan. "Scientific Racism and the Invention of the Homosexual Body." *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 5.2 (1994): 243-266.

February 14 Interracial Sex in the US

Jacobs, Margaret. "The Eastmans and the Luhans: Interracial Marriage between White Women and Native American Men, 1875–1935." *Frontiers* 23.3 (2002).
Freedman, Estelle. "The Prison Lesbian: Race, Class and the Construction of the Aggressive Female Homosexual, 1915-1965." From *Sex, Love, Race*.
Pascoe, Peggy. "Miscegenation Law, Court Cases, and Ideologies of 'Race' in Twentieth-Century America." From *Sex, Love, Race*.

February 21 History of Sexualities and Sexual Identities

Maines, Rachel. "The Job Nobody Wanted" **and** "Female Sexuality as Hysterical Pathology" from *The Technology Of Orgasm: "Hysteria," The Vibrator, And Women's Sexual Satisfaction - ONLINE BOOK* – access through Libros on library website (<http://libros.unm.edu>).
Smith-Rosenberg, Carol. "Female World of Love and Ritual," *Signs*, Vol. 1, No. 1. (Autumn, 1975), pp. 1-29.

February 28 Beyond Gender: Why "Male" and "Female" Are Not Enough

Kessler, Suzanne. "The Medical Construction of Gender." From *Theorizing Feminism*.
Fausto-Sterling, Ann. "How to Build a Man." *Gender/Sexuality Reader*.

March 7 MIDTERM EXAM

Bring Blue Book. Open Book Exam = You can bring your Polisex Portfolio to the exam.

March 14 No Class (Spring Break)

(Begin reading: Hillman, Thea. *Intersex (For Lack of a Better Word)*)

March 21

Finish reading: Hillman, Thea. *Intersex (For Lack of a Better Word)*.
Chase, Cheryl. "Hermaphrodites with Attitude." *GLQ* 4.2 (1998): 189-211.

March 28 GenderF*#^

Wilchins, Riki. *Read My Lips*.

April 4 Compulsory Heterosexuality

Rich, Adrienne. "Compulsory Heterosexuality." From *L & G Studies Reader*.
Kimmel, Michael. "Masculinity as Homophobia." From *Theorizing Masculinities*.
Start reading: Chee, Alexander. *Edinburgh: A Novel*.

April 11 Sex & Power

Kokopeli, Bruce and George Lakey. "More Power Than We Want."
MacKinnon, Catherine. "Sexuality." From *Second Wave Reader* (*Please note that this is a challenging reading due to MacKinnon's writing style as well as her discussion of violent sexualities – if this is too much for you, please let me know via email that you will be reading the alternative reading, which is:
(Alternate to MacKinnon) Mercer, Kobena. "Just Looking for Trouble: Robert Mapplethorpe and Fantasies of Race." From *Dangerous Liaisons*.
Finish reading Chee, Alexander. *Edinburgh: A Novel*.

April 18 Queering Sexuality

Rubin, Gayle. "Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality." From *L & G Studies Reader*.
Cohen, Cathy. "Punks, Bulldaggers and Welfare Queens" *GLQ* 3 (1997): 437-465.
Start reading Galloway, Terry. *Mean Little Deaf Queer: A Memoir*.

April 25 Sex and Citizenship: Why Marriage Matters

Brandzel, Amy. "Queering Citizenship?" *GLQ* 11.2 (2005): 71-204.

Interview with Nancy Cott.

Freedom To Marry, "For Richer or Poorer."

Family Research Council, "Ten Facts about Same-Sex 'Marriage'"

Beyond Marriage.Org, "Beyond Same-Sex Marriage."

Finish reading: Galloway, Terry. *Mean Little Deaf Queer: A Memoir*.

May 2 Sexing the Border/Queering the Nation-State

Luibhéid, Eithne. "Looking Like a Lesbian." From *Entry Denied*.

Rand, Erica. "Breeders on a Golf Ball." From *The Ellis Island Snow Globe*.

Duggan, Lisa. "Queering the State." *Social Text* 39 (Summer 1994): 1-14.

Final Essay question handed out last class

FINALS WEEK: Final Exam

FINAL EXAM and Take-Home Final Essay Due – Please bring a Blue Book. Open Book Exam = You can bring your Polisex Portfolio to the exam.